

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD SUMMARY

Thursday, May 24, 2001

### SENATE

#### Measures Introduced:

**S. 952.** A bill to *provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States* or their political subdivisions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Gregg

*Pages S 5616, S 5630-1*

**S. 955.** *A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify restrictions added by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary. "...The 1996 laws also stripped the Federal courts of any authority to review the decisions of the INS and the immigration courts. Under present law, harsh determinations are often made at the unreviewable discretion of INS officers. Fundamental decisions are made on the basis of a brief review of a few pages in a file, or a perfunctory administrative hearing, without judicial review. Our proposal will restore such review. Immigrants deserve their day in court..."*

Kennedy

*Pages S 5616, S 5631-3*

**S. 962.** A bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Hutchinson

*Pages S 5616, S 5637*

#### Measures Passed:

**Edward N. Cahn Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse:** *Senate passed S. 757, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 504 West Hamilton Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the "Edward N. Cahn Federal Building and United States Courthouse."*

*Pages S 5658, D 509*

**Lee H. Hamilton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse:** *Senate passed S. 774, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 West Spring Street in New Albany, Indiana, as the "Lee H. Hamilton Federal Building and United States Courthouse."*

*Pages S 5658, D 509*

**Tax Relief Reconciliation Amendment Modified:** By unanimous-consent, **Boxer Amendment No. 767**, to extend the work opportunity credit to encourage the hiring of certain veterans, which fell on a point of order, to **H.R. 1836**, Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act (as passed the Senate on May 24, 2001), was modified.

*Pages S 5638, D 509*

#### Nominations Received:

**Senate received the following nominations:**

*Sarah V. Hart*, of Pennsylvania, to be *Director of the National Institute of Justice*.

*Odessa F. Vincent*, of the District of Columbia, to be an *Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia* for the term of fifteen years.

*Pages S 5660-1, D 510*

#### Nominations Confirmed:

**Senate confirmed the following nominations:**

By 51 yeas 47 nays (Vote No. 167), *Theodore Bevery Olson*, of the District of Columbia, to be *Solicitor General of the United States*. (Prior to this action, Senate discharged the Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration.)

By 96 yeas 1 nay (Vote No. 168), *Viet D. Dinh*, of the District of Columbia, to be an *Assistant Attorney General*.

By 95 yeas 1 nay (Vote No. 169), *Michael Chertoff*, of New Jersey, to be an *Assistant Attorney General*. *Stephen A. Perry*, of Ohio, to be *Administrator of General Services*.

*Maurice A. Ross*, of the District of Columbia, to be an *Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia* for the term of fifteen years.

*Erik Patrick Christian*, of the District of Columbia, to be an *Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia* for the term of fifteen years.

*Pages S 5578-S 5603, S 5659-60, S 5661-2, D 510*

**Committee Meetings:**

**Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:** Committee concluded hearings to examine issues surrounding Congress' role in increasing patient safety in the health care system, including proposals that would reflect the Institute of Medicine's report recommendations to establish a center for quality improvement and safety to fund research and disseminate information about patient safety, ***while provide for confidentiality protections*** of this information.

**Committee on the Judiciary:** Committee concluded hearings to examine competition in the pharmaceutical marketplace, focusing on the antitrust implications of patent settlements, the underlying patent law, pattern of cases, and whether the law needs to be changed.

*Page D 512*

**Remark:**

A Change In The Senate.

Dodd

*Pages S 5603-4*

**HOUSE**

**Bills Introduced:**

**H.R. 1981.** A bill to ***make emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2001*** for the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Appropriations.

Evans

*Page H 2709*

**H.R. 1983.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the rules relating to the court-ordered apportionment of the retired pay of members of the Armed Forces to former spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Ballenger

*Page H 2709*

**Bills Introduced (Cont'd.):**

**H.R. 1984.** A bill to reaffirm English as the official language of the United States, to establish an uniform

English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the Laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the General Welfare of the United States and to establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization under Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Barr

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**H.R. 1988.** A bill to amend United States trade laws to address more effectively import crises; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

English

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**H.R. 1990.** A bill to leave no child behind; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, Agriculture, the Judiciary, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Miller

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**H.R. 1996.** *A bill to prohibit racial or other discriminatory profiling relating to detentions and searches of travelers by the United States Customs Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.*

Lewis

Page H 2710

**H.R. 1998.** *A bill to provide standards for the enactment of Federal crimes, to sunset those Federal crimes that do not meet those standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.*

Manzullo

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**H.R. 2005.** A bill to *amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Public Health Service Act to extend the basic period for health care continuation coverage from 18 months to 5 years, to permit a further extension of continuation coverage for individuals age 55 or older, and to provide for a 50 percent refundable tax credit towards premiums for COBRA continuation coverage;* to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Stark

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**H.R. 2006.** A bill to *amend titles 10 and 18, United States Code,* and the Revised Statutes to remove the uncertainty regarding the authority of the Department of Defense to permit buildings located on military installations and reserve component facilities to be used as polling places in Federal, State, and local elections for public office; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Thomas

Page H 2710-11

#### **Bills Introduced (Cont'd.):**

**H.R. 2009.** A bill to *provide reliable officers,* technology, education, *community prosecutors,* and training in our neighborhoods; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**Report Filed:**

**A Report was filed today as follows:**

**H.R. 1542**, to deregulate the Internet and high speed data services, amended (House Report 107-83, Pt. 1).  
*Pages H 2709, D 513*

**Executive Communication:**

**EC.-2172.** A letter from the General Counsel, U.S. Marshals Service, Department of Justice, *transmitting the Department's final rule--Revision to United States Marshals Service Fees for Services* [USMS No. 100F; AG Order No. 2316-2000] (RIN:1105-AA64) received May 17, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

*Page H 2708*

**EC.-2215.** *A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled, "Federal Courts Improvement Act of 2001;" jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, and Government Reform.*

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**Committee Meetings:**

**Committee on Government Reform:** Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs and the Subcommittee on Technology and the House of the Committee on Rules held a joint hearing on *"Unfunded Mandates-A Five-Year Review and Recommendations for Change."*

**Committee on the Judiciary:** Subcommittee on the Constitution approved for full Committee action **H. J. Res. 36**, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

**Committee on the Judiciary:** Subcommittee on Crime held an oversight hearing on *"Fighting Cyber Crime: Efforts by State and Local Officials."*

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**Remarks:**

**Blind Choices.**

*"... The same spirit of the tanks in Tiananmen Square has invaded the latest decisions with respect to Vieques in Puerto Rico. Both the Navy and a **Federal judge** are blindly pursuing a policy which rules out the choices of the people, refuses to recognize the choices of the people, and have resorted to measures like putting people in jail for 90 days. [ ] Mr. Speaker, judges have done enough harm also in this generation and should stop seeking their 15 minutes of fame. This judge is wrong. These sentences are wrong. Vieques should be set free..."*

Owens

*Page H 2684*

**Remarks (Cont'd.):**

**Introduction Of The Cobra Coverage Extension And Affordability Act Of 2001.**

*"... COBRA was created in order to provide a bridge for workers to be able to maintain health benefits for themselves and their families. It has been in place since 1986 and is overdue for remodeling..."*

Stark

Pages E 926-7

Stark/Moakley Cobra Coverage Extension And Affordability Act Of 2001.

Moakley

Page E 933

**The Federalization Of Crimes Uniform Standards (FOCUS) Act. (H.R. 1998)**

*"...Under the bill, Section 6, an offense, or federal crime, is an activity with respect to which a clear need for uniform Federal law enforcement exists. [ ] The idea behind this is to set a standard definition to what constitutes a federal crime. The current method seems to be that a federal crime is whatever Congress deems it to be, without any true consideration of the constitutional issues involved. [ ] It's high time that Congress takes a serious look at the federalization of crimes in the United States. The State and Federal Courts together comprise an intertwined system for the administration of justice in the United States..."*

Manzullo

Pages E 938-9

**Next SENATE MEETING: Friday, 10:00 a.m., May 25, 2001.**

**Next HOUSE MEETING: Friday, 10:00 a.m., May 25, 2001.**

**OLA: S. Schwarz (Smith), J. Homanich**